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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00 HA-09 H-01

INRE-00 INR-01 L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01 SS-00

PA-01 PM-02 PRS-01 P-01 SNP-00 SP-00

TRSE-00 T-01 USIE-00 /040W

-----811757 021913Z /38

R 021652Z DEC 92

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2939

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 15301

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE, HO

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY

REF: STATE 385581

1. (U) PRESIDENT RAFAEL CALLEJAS CONDEMNED THE ATTEMPTED COUP AGAINST VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON NOV 27. CALLEJAS "FORMALLY AND SERIOUSLY" DENOUNCED THE ACTION AGAINST VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY, WHICH HE SAID "CAUSES UNCERTAINTY IN LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS." CALLEJAS SAID THAT "THESE ACTIONS AGAINST LEGAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE VENEZUELAN POLITICAL SYSTEM CAN ONLY MEAN THE NEGATION OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 15301 021655Z SELF-DETERMINATION." FINALLY, CALLEJAS STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR MARIO TEPEDINO TO EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION AND HIS SUPPORT FOR CAP.

2. (U) MUCH AS THE PREVIOUS COUP ATTEMPT IN VENEZUELA RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A COUP IN HONDURAS, SO TOO DID THIS EFFORT. CALLEJAS DENIED THAT THE GOH ECONOMIC REFORMS COULD PROVOKE A COUP HERE. HE SAID THAT THE HONDURAN MILITARY WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN A COUP AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT SINCE THEY "UNDERSTAND

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED DATE/CASE ID: 08 AUG 2006 200503206

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VERY CLEARLY THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES."

3. (U) LATER, A GOH PRESS RELEASE "ENERGETICALLY
CONDEMNED" THE ATTEMPTED COUP AND STATED THE GOH'S
"TOTAL SOLIDARITY" WITH THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF
VENEZUELA. THE RELEASE REPUDIATED THIS "EFFORT TO USE
FORCE TO IMPOSE A FORM OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE WILL OF
THE PEOPLE."

4. (C) COMMENT: MORE BECAUSE OF THEIR HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF MILITARY TAKEOVERS THAN ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT, HONDURAN CIVILIANS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO COUP ATTEMPTS IN LATIN AMERICA.

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